

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-21 are pending in this application. Claim 21 is added by the present response. Claims 9-20 stand withdrawn from consideration. Claims 4, 7, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by JP 3-208304 to Nobuharu. Claims 3-5, 7, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. patent 3,872,582 to Matsuoka et al. (herein "Matsuoka"). Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nobuharu in view of U.S. patent 4,835,508 to Seike et al. (herein "Seike"). Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Matsuoka or Nobuharu in view of JP 49-30896 to Meidensha. Claims 3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nobuharu in view of Matsuoka.

Addressing each of the above-noted rejections, those rejections are traversed by the present response.

Independent claim 8 is amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein. Specifically, independent claim 8 is amended by the present response to now delete the side-surface high resistance layer being able to be formed of "an amorphous silica", "a complex of an amorphous silica with an organosilicate", "a glass containing lead as a main component", "a combination of a crystalline inorganic substance containing Zn-Si-O as a constitutional component with a crystalline inorganic substance containing Zn-Sb-Fe-O as a constitutional component", and "a crystalline silica (SiO₂)".

In addition claim 8 is amended by the present response to now recite the following elements as elements that can form the side-surface high resistance layer: "a Bi-B-Si glass", "a Bi-Zn-B-Si glass", "a Bi-Zn-B-Si-Al glass", and "a Bi-Zn-B-Al glass".

The above-noted features added to independent claim 8 are fully supported by the original specification for example in Table 1 on pages 39 and 40 of the present specification.

Further, the above-noted claim amendments are believed to overcome the outstanding rejections based on the applied art.

More particularly, with respect to the applied art to Nobuharu, the rejections based on Nobuharu are traversed by the present response as claim 8 is amended by the present response to now delete “an amorphous silica” and “a crystalline silica (SiO₂)” as potential elements of the side-surface high resistance layer.

With respect to the teachings in Matsuoka, independent claim 8 is believed to distinguish over Matsuoka by deleting the “amorphous silica” and “crystalline silica (SiO₂)” as potential elements for the side-surface high resistance layer.

Further, no teachings in Seike or Meidensha overcome the above-noted deficiencies in Nobuharu and Matsuoka.

Further, with respect to dependent claim 11, which was rejected based on Matsuoka or Nobuharu in view of Meidensha, claim 11 is believed to further distinguish over those rejections.

More specifically, applicants respectfully submit that Meidensha does not disclose or suggest a “glass containing phosphorous as a main component” as recited in claim 11. The glass disclosed by Meidensha is formed of a mixture of 80-95% by weight of a crystallized glass containing a large amount, i.e. 50-70 mol%, of SiO₂ and only a small amount, i.e. 0-10 mol%, of P₂O₅ with 5-20% by weight of low-melting glass containing no phosphorous, see for example the Abstract. In such ways the glass disclosed by Meidensha is not in fact a “glass containing phosphorous as a main component”, in contrast to the requirements in claim 11. Thus, claim 11 is believed to even further distinguish over the applied art.

The present response also sets forth new independent claim 21 for examination that is believed to also distinguish over the applied art. New independent claim 21 includes certain features deleted from independent claim 8. New independent claim 21 also recites “a glass

containing phosphorous as a main component”, as recited in previously dependent claim 11.

As noted above that feature is believed to distinguish over any art cited, and in particular over the teachings in Meidensha.

New independent claim 21 also recites “a mullite-containing aluminum phosphate based inorganic adhesive agent”, “an alumina-containing aluminum phosphate based inorganic adhesive agent”, “a silica-containing aluminum phosphate based inorganic adhesive agent”, and “a cordierite-containing aluminum phosphate based inorganic adhesive agent”, as potential elements of a side-surface high resistance layer. Those elements are fully supported for example by samples 1-4 noted in Table 1 at page 38 of the present specification.

Further, in new claim 21 the feature of “a combination of Zn-Si-O crystalline inorganic substance with Zn-Sb-O crystalline inorganic substance” also recited therein is supported by sample 20 in Table 1 at page 40 of the present specification.

Further, in new claim 21 the feature of “a combination of Fe-Mn-Bi-Si-O crystalline inorganic substance with Zn-Sb-O crystalline inorganic substance” is supported by sample 23 in Table 1 at page 41 of the present specification.

Further, in new claim 21 the features of “a silica-containing epoxy resin”, “an alumina- containing epoxy resin”, and “a silica-alumina-containing epoxy resin” are supported by samples 31-33 in Table 1 at page 42 of the present specification.

The features recited in new claim 21 are believed to also distinguish over the applied art for at least the reasons noted above.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that each of independent claims 8 and 21, and the claims dependent therefrom, are allowable. In that respect applicants also note that at least withdrawn claims 9, 10, 12, and 13, which depend from claim 8, must now be reintroduced as claim 8 is clearly generic to those claims.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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